

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed May 25, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, the election of claims 1-22 is confirmed and claims 23-27 are indicated in this amendment as having been withdrawn. These claims will be cancelled at such time as allowable subject matter is indicated.

With respect to the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, to claim 14 as being indefinite, without conceding the propriety of this rejection claim 14 has been cancelled to expedite prosecution of this application. Accordingly further comment on this rejection is not believed necessary.

Turning to the rejections to the claims under various prior art, without conceding the propriety of these rejections, each of the independent claims 1 and 15 herein have been amended to recite additional features of some embodiments of the present invention. For example, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the base has a seating surface and that the trays are configured to seat within the base on the seating surface. Claim 1 further recites that the tray has two opposed ends and projects above the base when resting on the seating surface. Claim 1 also recites that on each end a ridge forms a respective indented handle portion, which is disposed at least partially above the peripheral edge of the base when the tray is resting on the seating surface. Examples of these features can be seen in FIGs. 1 and 4 of the present specification, for example the resting surfaces 55 and the indented handled portions 40. Claim 15 has been similarly amended, with relevance to a containing means instead of a tray.

These features provide a useful advantage of some embodiments of the present invention. In particular, one of the aspects of these claimed embodiments is that the resulting storage unit can be made relatively compact (e.g. not greater than about 2 inches in height). The invention also provides for a removable tray. In such a compact configuration, the claimed arrangement of

the seating surfaces and the handle provides for convenient removal of the tray while still leaving a compact overall storage unit.

It is respectfully submitted that this combination of claimed features is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art references. Referring particularly to the rejections of cancelled claim 10, which had recited a tray with a handle, it is noted that the handle referred to in the Office Action in the patent to Dickenson et al. is significantly different from the claimed handle. The handle in Dickenson et al. is an upwardly protruding central handle. This handle undesirable takes up storage space. None of the other references are seen to teach or suggest any indented handle on the side of the tray nor a seating surface which orients the tray so that the handle is at least partially above the peripheral edge of the base in order to be accessible.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is believed to be in order and such action is earnestly solicited.

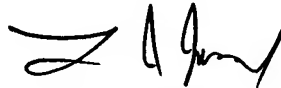
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that all the objections and rejections to the claims be removed and that the claims pass to allowance. If for any reason the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1696 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned Attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

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